CLAIMS

1. A portable container (10) for fluid contents including light-emitting means (13, 127), event-detecting means, a self-contained power source (14) and connecting means (15, 20) for connecting the light-emitting means (13, 127) with the event-detecting means and the power source (14), such that on detection of one or more predetermined events light is emitted, wherein the container (10) is at least partially fabricated from a material able to transmit light, wherein the light-emitting means (13, 127) is arranged to be able to illuminate the contents of the container.

2. A container as claimed in claim 1, wherein the contents are illuminated substantially uniformly.

3. A container as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein the container (10) is arranged in normal use such that after detection of an event, light is emitted until the power source (14) is exhausted.

4. A container as claimed in claim 1, 2 or 3, wherein the activating event comprises the opening of the container.

5. A container as claimed in claim 4, wherein opening of the container is detected by removal of an insulating tab (51).

6. A container as claimed in claim 4, wherein opening of the container is detected by a change in pressure.

7. A container as claimed in claim 1, 2 or 3, wherein the activating event comprises exposure to a specific temperature or range of temperatures.

8. A container as claimed in claim 1, 2 or 3, wherein the activating event comprises exposure to a magnetic field.

9. A container as claimed in claim 1, 2 or 3, wherein the activating event is receipt of an external signal.

10. A container as claimed in claim 9, wherein the external signal is a form of wireless communication.

11. A container as claimed in claim 10, wherein the external signal is radio frequency.

12. A container as claimed in claim 10, wherein the external signal originates from a mobile telephone (111).

13. A container as claimed in claim 10, wherein the external signal originates from a personal digital assistant.

14. A container as claimed in claim 1, 2 or 3, wherein the activating event is the removal of the container (10) from a surface (122).

15. A container as claimed in claim 14, wherein removal of the container (10) from a surface (122) is detected by release of a switch (121) on the base of the container (10).

16. A container as claimed in claim 1, 2 or 3, wherein the activating event is detection of touching of or near approach to the container (10) by a person.

17. A container as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the light-emitting means (13, 127) includes at least one light-emitting diode (13).

18. A container as claimed in claim any of claims 1 to 16, wherein the light-emitting means (13, 127) comprises an electroluminescent device (127).

19. A container as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the light-emitting means (13, 127) is a substantially flat light-emitting element (127).

20. A container as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the light-emitting means (13, 127) and/or the power source (14) is located in an indentation (12, 132) external to the container.

21. A container as claimed in any of claims 1 to 19, wherein the power source (14) is a battery of substantially flat shape and is applied against a substantially planar surface of the container.

22. A container as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the connecting means (15, 20) includes an electric or electronic circuit (20), and the event is detected by the opening or the closing of the circuit (20).

23. A container as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the connecting means (15, 20) includes substantially transparent electrically conductive means (15).

24. A container as claimed in claim 23, wherein the substantially transparent electrically conductive means (15) comprises transparent conducting oxide material.

25. A portable container (10) including light-emitting means (13, 127), event-detecting means, a self-contained power source (14) and connecting means (15, 20) for connecting the light-emitting means (13, 127) with the event-detecting means and the power source (14), such that on detection of one or more predetermined events light is emitted, wherein the light-emitting means comprises an electroluminescent device (127).

26. A container as claimed in claim 25, wherein the event is opening of the container (10).

27. A container as claimed in claim 25 or 26, wherein the container (10) includes a symbol or logo, and the symbol or logo is illuminated.

28. A portable container (10) arranged in normal use to be opened once only, including means for producing an output signal (13, 127), means for detecting opening of the container (10), a self-contained power source (14) and connecting means (15, 20) for connecting the means for producing an output signal (13, 127) with the means for detecting opening of the container (10) and the power source (14), such that on opening of the container (10) an output signal is emitted.

29. A container as claimed in claim 28, wherein the container (10) is arranged such that after opening of the container (10), the output signal is emitted until the power source (14) is exhausted.

30. A container as claimed in claim 27 or 28, wherein opening of the container (10) is detected by removal of an insulating tab (51).

31. A container as claimed in claim 27 or 28, wherein opening of the container (10) is detected by a change in pressure.

32. A portable container (10) including means for producing an output signal (13, 127), a removable insulating tab (51, 84) , a self-contained power source (14) and connecting means (15, 20) for connecting the means for producing an output signal (13, 127) with the removable tab (51, 84) and the power source (14), wherein the removable tab (51, 84) is arranged such that on removal of the insulating tab (51, 84) a circuit

comprising the connecting means (15, 20), the means for producing an output signal (13, 127) and the power source (14) is closed and an output signal is emitted.

33 A container as claimed in claim 32, wherein the tab (51) is located at or in a closure element of the container.

34. A container as claimed in claim 32, wherein the location of the tab (84) on the container is spaced from a closure element of the container.

35. A portable container (10) including means for producing an output signal (13, 127), means for detecting temperature, a self-contained power source (14) and connecting means (15, 20) for connecting the means for producing an output signal (13, 127) with the means for detecting temperature and the power source (14), such that on detection of exposure to a predetermined specific temperature or range of temperatures an output signal is emitted.

36. A portable container (10) including means for producing an output signal (13, 127), means for detecting exposure to a magnetic field, a self-contained power source (14) and connecting means (15, 20) for connecting the means for producing an output signal (13, 127) with the means for detecting a magnetic field and the power source (14), such that on detection of exposure to a magnetic field of a predetermined strength an output signal is emitted.

37. A portable container (10) including means for producing an output signal (13, 127), means for detecting receipt of an external signal, a self-contained power source (14) and connecting means (15, 20) for connecting the means for producing an output signal (13, 127) with the means for detecting receipt of an external signal and the power source (14), such that on detection of receipt of an external signal an output signal is emitted.

38. A container as claimed in claim 37, wherein the external signal is a form of wireless communication.

39. A container as claimed in claim 37 or 38, wherein the external signal is radio frequency.

40. A container as claimed in claim 37 or 38, wherein the external signal originates from a mobile telephone (111).

41. A container as claimed in claim 37 or 38, wherein the external signal originates from a personal digital assistant.

42. A portable container (10) including means for producing an output signal (13, 127), means for detecting touching of or near approach to the container (10) by a person, a self-contained power source (14) and connecting means (15, 20) for connecting the means for producing an output signal (13, 127) with the means for detecting touching of or near approach to the container (10) by a person and the power source (14), such that on detection of touching of or near approach to the container (10) by a person an output signal is emitted.

43. A portable container (10) including means for producing an output signal (13, 127), event-detecting means, a self-contained power source (14) and connecting means (15, 20) for connecting the means for producing an output signal (13, 127) with the event-detecting means and the power source (14), such that on detection of one or more predetermined events an output signal is emitted, the connecting means (15, 20) including substantially transparent electrically conductive means (15).

44. A container as claimed in claim 43, wherein the substantially transparent electrically conductive means (15) comprises transparent conducting oxide material.

45. A container as claimed in claim 43 or 44, wherein the activating event comprises the opening of the container.

46. A container as claimed in any of claims 28 to 45, wherein the output signal is light.

47. A container as claimed in any of claims 28 to 46, wherein the container (10) includes a symbol or logo, and the symbol or logo is illuminated.

48. A container as claimed in any of claims 28 to 46, wherein the container (10) is at least partially fabricated from a material able to transmit light and the light-emitting means (13, 127) is arranged to be able to illuminate the contents of the container (10).